



NEWS RELEASE

Drew H. Wrigley
United States Attorney
District of North Dakota

655 First Ave. N. Suite 250 P. O. Box 699
Fargo, ND 58102-4932 Bismarck, ND 58502-0699
701-297-7400 701-530-2420

For Further Information Contact: Julie Hough (701-297-7400)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2006

Fort Totten Man Sentenced for Sexual Abuse of a Minor

GRAND FORKS - United States Attorney Drew Wrigley announced that

Fulton Joseph Merrick, Jr., of Fort Totten, North Dakota, was sentenced on May 11, 2006, before United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson on a charge of sexual abuse of a minor.

Merrick, Jr., 30, pleaded guilty on February 15, 2006, to engaging in a sexual act with a minor female who was under 16. The incident occurred in the late fall of 2001 on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation.

Judge Erickson sentenced **Merrick** to 21 months' imprisonment to be followed by three years of supervised release. **Merrick** was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$2,648.45 to North Dakota Medicaid and to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Assistant United States Attorney Janice M. Morley prosecuted the case.

-end-